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# Settlement Talks Delay Nikkei Latin Americans' Ruling

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A telephonic status conference (*Mochizuki v. the United States*) held Monday with Chief Judge Loren Smith of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, lawyers for Japanese Latin American former internees and U.S. government attorneys resulted in further postponement of a ruling on the redress case.

To allow settlement discussions to continue, Judge Smith scheduled the next telephonic conference for March 18, at 4 p.m. EST. If no settlement can be reached by that date, Judge Smith will rule on the case one week later.

As of Monday, the government has not offered a settlement. According to sources within the government, the Department of Justice may only be willing to grant redress to former internees who are now or have been U.S. citizens or U.S. permanent residents.

Based on estimates this would result in redress for less than 6 percent of the total number of surviving Japanese Latin American former internees (roughly 70 people).

Such a settlement would deny redress to all those 1,765 Japanese Latin Americans forcibly deported to Japan during and after the war, as well as more than 100 internees who were able to return to Latin America after the war, the majority of whom currently reside in Japan and Peru.

"At the end of World War II, the U.S. government did not invite Japanese Latin American internees to remain in the U.S. and become per-

manent residents and citizens. In fact, the government issues deportation orders against them," stated Grace Shimizu, daughter of a former internee and project director of the Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project.

"Despite having been forcibly brought to this country by the U.S. government, Japanese Latin Americans were labeled as illegal entrants and subject to detainment and deportation under U.S. law. Those who succeeded in staying in the U.S. following World War II fought deportation orders through the courts and it took them over 10 years to resolve their illegal status," explained Shimizu, who has been researching the Japanese Latin American internment experience for more than 13 years.

"The Campaign for Justice considers the government's position on limiting reparations in this way illogical and indefensible," stated Julie Small, co-chair of Campaign for Justice.

"One of the purposes of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 was to make the U.S. credible in the eyes of the world on human rights issues," she noted. "By continuing to deny redress to more than 90 percent of the survivors, the U.S. government shirks its responsibility. The U.S. government must remedy the war crimes it committed against these innocent civilians and provide full redress to all Japanese Latin American former internees."